

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING RANDOM ACCESS TO A MULTIMEDIA OBJECT OVER A NETWORK

5

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method provide random access to a multimedia object over a network. One embodiment of the invention includes a streaming media server that is connected to a client computer over a network. The streaming media server includes at least one multimedia object that is adapted for transmission ("streaming") across the network. A pre-roll calculation program determines a pre-roll for each segment of the multimedia object and generates a modified multimedia object which includes a pre-roll for each of its segments, a pre-roll identifying a portion of the multimedia object to be transmitted by the streaming media server and received by the client computer prior to playback of the multimedia object at a selected segment. The pre-roll allows the client computer to present, starting at a selected segment, the multimedia object in its entirety without interruption. The pre-roll calculation program further facilitates the design of the multimedia object to minimize delays associated with random accesses to segments of the multimedia object.

20

S:\DOCS\EMN\EMN-3133.DOC
082203